

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN REMEMBRANCE OF OTTIE  
MOORE

**HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 23, 2021*

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, it is with deep sadness but great respect that I take this time to remember one of my constituents, Ottie Jackson Moore, Sr. of Bowling Green, Virginia.

Mr. Moore passed away on Monday, May 31, 2021 after nearly a century of life. Ottie Moore honored his country with a long career of service first with the United States Army, and then seven-terms as Caroline Counties Sheriff. His life was an example of commitment, dedication, and service from which all of us would be wise to emulate.

When Ottie was not working, he was spending his time improving the community in any way he could. He served as President of the Virginia Sheriffs' Association, advised the Virginia Assembly in passage of legislation to advance local law enforcement and was a founding member of the Board that led to the creation of the Rappahannock Regional Training academy in 1977.

In addition to his life of leadership in the military and local law enforcement, Ottie was known as a family man and valuable member of the community. Along with his wife Dana Moore,—together they raised a daughter Mary and son "Jack" and worshipped as members of the Bowling Green Methodist Church.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in honoring Mr. Ottie Moore, Sr. and in thanking the Moore family for his incredible sacrifices, devotion, and service to our Nation; words cannot express our gratitude. On behalf of America's First District, we say thank you.

HONORING THE LIFE OF COLONEL  
HOUSTON T. "TERRY" HAWKINS,  
RET. USAF

**HON. JEFF DUNCAN**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 23, 2021*

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Colonel Houston T. "Terry" Hawkins, who made his trip home on June 14, 2021, with his wife, Martha Butts Hawkins by his side.

Born in Seneca, South Carolina, Colonel Hawkins was known by his friends and family as "Terry." In 1959, Terry graduated from Seneca High School with honors and went on to further his education at Clemson College, which is now known as Clemson University. There, he was a member of the ROTC program and graduated with a B.S. in Chemistry in 1963. Following his graduation, he was stationed at Wright Patterson Air Force Base (AFB) in Dayton, Ohio. While on leave, he

asked Martha Butts on a date, which began a beautiful and lifelong love. The two were married on October 3, 1965, and later welcomed two beautiful daughters into the world. He was a devoted disciple of Christ and a member of the White Rock Baptist Church.

In 1967, Terry was stationed at Kadena Air Base in Okinawa, Japan to serve in the Vietnam War. After returning home to the U.S., Terry and Martha moved to several different locations as he rose through the ranks within the United States Air Force (USAF). Terry was later promoted to Lieutenant Colonel which brought his family to the Washington, D.C. area where he completed three consecutive assignments. Terry became the leader of the Defense Intelligence Agency's Nuclear Energy Division from 1979 to 1983. After, he served as the Special Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Air Force Nuclear Matters, then transferred to the Defense Nuclear Agency in 1987. Finally, Terry joined the Los Alamos National Laboratory where he served our great nation for 30 more years. Terry received numerous awards and recognitions throughout his career, most notably the Chief Justice Earl Warren Medallion awarded by the CIA. He will be laid to rest on June 23, in his hometown of Seneca.

Reflecting on the life of Colonel Hawkins, I am reminded strongly of the verse John 15:13: "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." From a young age, Colonel Hawkins selflessly and nobly served his country. I am proud of the leadership and service Colonel Hawkins showed.

Madam Speaker, it is a privilege to be able to serve the Third District of South Carolina and to honor the lives of patriots like Colonel Hawkins. My thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends during this time.

JUNETEENTH NATIONAL  
INDEPENDENCE DAY ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 16, 2021*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, and Chairman MCGOVERN, I thank the Committee for today's markup of H.R. 1320/S. 475, Juneteenth National Independence Day Act, the companion to H.R. 1320, the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act, which I introduced in the House and has over 166 members as sponsors.

Earlier this week the CBC; led by myself and Congressman TORRES of New York, held a Special Order, on Juneteenth and so many of my CBC colleagues commemorated this historically significant day for all Americans, but especially African Americans.

Juneteenth is as significant to African Americans as July 4 is to all Americans because on that day, June 19, 155 years ago, General

Gordon Granger, the Commanding Officer of the District of Texas, rode into Galveston, Texas and announced the freedom of the last American slaves; belatedly freeing 250,000 slaves in Texas nearly two and a half years after Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation.

When General Granger read these words of General Order No. 3 set off joyous celebrations of the freedmen and woman of Texas:

"The people of Texas are informed that in accordance with a Proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection therefore existing between them becomes that between employer and hired laborer."

Juneteenth was first celebrated in the Texas state capital in 1867 under the direction of the Freedmen's Bureau.

Juneteenth remains the oldest known celebration of slavery's demise, commemorating freedom while acknowledging the sacrifices and contributions made by courageous African Americans towards making our great nation the more conscious and accepting country that it has become.

As the Nation prepares to celebrate July 4th, our national day of independence, it is a time to reflect on the accomplishments of our nation and its people.

I want to thank the Members of the House for their bipartisan support of this annual Juneteenth Resolution, which has 214 cosponsors, of which 202 are original sponsors.

General Granger's reading of General Order No. 3 ended chattel slavery, a form of perpetual servitude that held generations of Africans in bondage in the United States for two-hundred and forty-eight years and opened a new chapter in American history.

Recognizing the importance of this date, former slaves coined the word "Juneteenth" to mark the occasion with a celebrations the first of which occurred in the Texas state capital in 1867 under the direction of the Freedmen's Bureau.

Juneteenth was and is a living symbol of freedom for people who did not have it.

Juneteenth remains the oldest known celebration of slavery's demise.

It commemorates freedom while acknowledging the sacrifices and contributions made by courageous African Americans towards making our great Nation the more conscious and accepting country that it has become.

The celebration of Juneteenth followed the most devastating conflict in our country's history, in the aftermath of a civil war that pitted brother against brother, neighbor against neighbor and threatened to tear the fabric of our union apart forever that America truly became the land of the free and the home of the brave.

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, "Freedom is never free," and African American labor leader A. Phillip Randolph often said "Freedom is never given. It is won." Truer words were never spoken.

We should all recognize the power and the ironic truth of those statements, and we

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

should pause to remember the enormous price paid by all Americans in our country's quest to realize its promise.

Juneteenth honors the end of the 400 years of suffering African Americans endured under slavery and celebrates the legacy of perseverance that has become the hallmark of the African American experience in the struggle for equality.

The poet Langston Hughes reminds us in his famous poem, "Mother to Son," life in America for African Americans "ain't been no crystal stair."

The post-bellum period in America was marked by violence and terrorism against African Americans as they sought to make real the promises of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution.

Nowhere was the reign of terror to which they were subjected more horrific than the 1921 Tulsa-Greenwood Race Massacre, which occurred a century ago this past May 31 through June 1.

Tulsa's Greenwood District was known as "Black Wall Street," and was the most prosperous African American community in the United States.

The Greenwood community with a population of over 10,000 Black people had stores that sold luxury items, 21 restaurants, 30 grocery stores, a hospital, a savings and loan bank, a post office, three hotels, jewelry and clothing stores, two movie theaters, a library, pool halls, a bus and cab service, a nationally recognized school system, six private airplanes, and two black newspapers.

But on May 31st of that year, the 35 city blocks of Greenwood went up in flames, at least 300 Black persons were murdered and more than 800 were injured; it is estimated that not less than 9,000 were left homeless and destitute.

The message of the Tulsa Race Massacre was clear to Black America: "Stay in your place. Do not attempt to accumulate and bequeath wealth or own property. Remember your history in America is as chattel property."

If they were still alive, the domestic terrorists of the mob in Greenwood would see their evil reenacted—and then followed by a similar attempt to cover it up and foster collective amnesia—a century later in the siege and desecration of the hallowed halls of the U.S. Capitol, the 'Citadel of Democracy'.

It should not be overlooked that the source of the January 6 white mob's irrational anger, hatred, and violent reaction was that Black Americans voted in overwhelming numbers in Atlanta, Detroit, Milwaukee, Philadelphia, and other enclaves to oust the most pro-White supremacy President since the Civil War.

Some might ask "Why dwell on the past? Let us forget unpleasant things and move on into the future."

My answer is to quote the great southern writer William Faulkner: "The past is never dead. It is not even the past."

The hatreds, prejudices, resentments, and white supremacy that Black Americans witnessed and suffered in Greenwood a century ago are not dead; they are not even past.

So my message to the descendants of the survivors and victims of slavery, America's Original Sin, is to keep fighting for justice, to never be silent, to affirm the truth, and seek accountability.

In his famous Second Inaugural Address, President Lincoln spoke of the profound moral

debt owed for "all the wealth piled by the bondsman's two hundred and fifty years of unrequited toil," and that the Civil War was the judgment of the Lord, which was "true and righteous altogether."

That debt remains to be paid, which is why African Americans have always peacefully petitioned the government for the redress of its grievances.

As the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King said at the 1963 March on Washington:

"In a sense, we have come to our Nation's capital to cash a check. When the architects of our republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir.

"This note was a promise that all men, yes, black men as well as white men, would be guaranteed the inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

"It is obvious today that America has defaulted on this promissory note insofar as her citizens of color are concerned. Instead of honoring this sacred obligation, America has given the Negro people a bad check, a check which has come back marked 'insufficient funds.' But we refuse to believe that the bank of justice is bankrupt. We refuse to believe that there are insufficient funds in the great vaults of opportunity of this nation. So we have come to cash this check—a check that will give us upon demand the riches of freedom and the security of justice."

In recent years, a number of National Juneteenth Organizations have arisen to take their place alongside older organizations—all with the mission to promote and cultivate knowledge and appreciation of African American history and culture.

Juneteenth celebrates African American freedom while encouraging self-development and respect for all cultures.

But it must always remain a reminder to us all that liberty and freedom are precious birthrights of all Americans, which must be jealously guarded and preserved for future generations.

I am pleased to see this important legislation before this Committee on the eve of it becoming law.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF FORMER REPRESENTATIVE PAUL MITCHELL

#### HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2021

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize former Michigan Representative Paul Mitchell. He served Michigan's 10th District from 2017 until his retirement at the beginning of this year. After being diagnosed with Stage IV renal cancer this month, he recently underwent multiple surgeries in addition to starting immunotherapy treatment. Even though my heart hurts for Paul and his family, I know he is courageous and brave, and I know he will fight through this illness.

Representative Mitchell served on numerous committees, including on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the House Committee on Armed Services. As a member of Congress, Representative Mitchell was a

champion for Michigan's families and small businesses, as well as a strong advocate for our armed forces and strengthening our national security.

As a colleague and a friend, Representative Mitchell has always been a man of principle and has been committed to working with others for the betterment of this nation. He's crossed party lines to work on police reform and joined the bipartisan fight to keep Michigan's Great Lakes safe and clean for all. In his last term as a Member of Congress, he notably stood up for democracy during the 2020 election even when it was an unpopular position for him to take. His bravery will be a part of his legacy.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking former Representative Paul Mitchell for his leadership and service. I join the entire Michigan delegation in sending our colleague Paul Mitchell and his family strength and love as he begins treatment and conveying our many thanks to the team at Henry Ford Health System for their continued care.

#### IN MEMORY OF PATRICIA O'SULLIVAN SRAMEK

#### HON. ALAN S. LOWENTHAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2021

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in memory of Patricia O'Sullivan Sramek, a lifelong resident of Long Beach, California, an outstanding person, and a dear personal friend. Patti passed away suddenly in her home on June 16, 2021.

She is survived by her husband Nicholas, her children David and Bridget, her daughter-in-law Mary, her grandchildren Eleanor, Abraham, Ingrid and Levi, and her brother Patrick Burke. She was a sister-in-law to Debbie, Hilda and Kathy. She was a loving aunt to Patrick, April, Tom, Tracy, Alex and Carla. She was predeceased by her parents Patrick O'Sullivan and Marguerite (Margie) O'Sullivan.

Patti was born in 1942 in Long Beach, California. She grew up in West Long Beach, where she lived with her family, and attended Poly High School. She met her future husband Nick, whose family lived half a mile away on Delta Avenue. On July 27, 1968 they were married in a small ceremony at St. Lucy's Parish and their reception was held on a rainy afternoon in her parents' backyard—she always noted that the rain was good luck. She and Nick moved to North Carolina where he was enlisted in the United States Army at Fort Bragg. In August 1970 and September 1976, she and Nick welcomed their children into the world at Long Beach Memorial Hospital.

Patti held many jobs in her life including making milkshakes at Tom's Burgers on Santa Fe Avenue as a teenager and sewing pockets on pants in a factory in Sanford, North Carolina. She was a champion for the communities of the West Side and served as a Field Deputy for the City of Long Beach's Seventh Council District for many years. She was known for driving the neighborhood daily to spot sidewalks and streets that needed repairs and to visit with neighbors. Along with her brother Burke, Patti helped care for her aging parents Pat and Margie prior to their passing. She later retired and welcomed her four

grandchildren in succession—Ella, Abe, Ingrid and Levi. She was a devoted and beloved grandmother who was known simply as “GG”.

Patti was a towering beauty, a one-in-a-million woman, and a force of nature. She was famous for her ability to strike up a conversation with anyone and everyone she crossed paths with. She loved a good martini, big sunglasses, Frank Sinatra, art museums and beautiful gardens. As COVID-related restrictions began to lift, she daydreamed about traveling the English and Irish countryside. She would say that in her life she was most proud of her 52-year marriage, motherhood, and the fierce love she held for her family. She will be greatly missed, but her family takes comfort that she has joined her mother and father whom she adored.

#### EXTENSION OF MANAGEMENT PLANNING DEADLINE FOR NATIONAL HERITAGE AREAS DESIGNATION UNDER THE 2019 DINGELL ACT

##### HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2021

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, today I introduced a bill to extend the statutory deadline for submitting a management plan for the six National Heritage Areas designated under the John D. Dingell Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act of 2019 (Public Law 116–9).

Current law directs the local coordinating entity for each National Heritage Area to submit a management plan to the National Park Service within three years of the date of enactment: March 12, 2022. However, due to the COVID–19 pandemic, many of the local coordinating entities need additional time to finalize their management plans, including completing a robust public engagement process not possible during much of 2020.

As Deputy Secretary of the Interior during the Clinton Administration, I know that local coordinating entities for National Heritage Areas need sufficient time to prepare effective management plans that reflect substantial public feedback. The John D. Dingell Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act of 2019 (Public Law 116–9) included the House sponsor of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area Act, of which I sponsored with Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN (D–CA). More time will allow California’s first and the other newly designated National Heritage Areas to conduct greater public engagement, preform fulsome tribal consultations, and complete all necessary field work to ensure these new National Heritage Areas are set up for success.

Madam Speaker, I thank Representatives MCKINLEY (R–WV), SMITH (D–WA), SCHRIER (D–WA), KILMER (D–WA), JAYAPAL (D–WA), GRIJALVA (D–AZ), and STRICKLAND (D–WA) for their support as original cosponsors. I look forward to working with Natural Resources Chairman RAÚL GRIJALVA to ensure this critical piece of legislation becomes law.

#### RECOGNIZING FORMER DIRECTOR OF THE NEW JERSEY OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND PREPAREDNESS JARED MAPLES ON HIS RETIREMENT

##### HON. ANDY KIM

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2021

Mr. KIM of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor former Director of the New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness Jared Maples on his retirement.

Director Maples retirement from public service is much deserved. Prior to working at New Jersey’s Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness, Director Maples served his country for over a decade at the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and the U.S. Department of Defense.

As Director of the New Jersey Office of Homeland Security, Jared Maples committed himself to making life safer for all residents of New Jersey. He led New Jersey’s counterterrorism efforts, and cybersecurity efforts and served as a critical link in New Jersey’s COVID–19 response. Director Maples was a staunch advocate for the interfaith community and worked hard to ensure that they remained safe from bias crimes. I was honored to participate on numerous events with Director Maples and found him to be an individual who truly cares about the safety and well-being of all residents in my district and throughout New Jersey.

I commend Director Maples for his work, and I know I speak on behalf of my constituents when I say congratulations.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. FRANK J. MRVAN

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2021

Mr. MRVAN. Madam Speaker, regrettably, I was not able to vote on June 22, 2021. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 173, and YEA on Roll Call No. 174.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF MR. THOMAS JAMES OSBORNE

##### HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2021

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Thomas James Osborne, beloved husband, father, grandfather, friend, community leader, and sports enthusiast.

Tom was born January 5, 1956, in St. Cloud, Minnesota, to Irene and Bill Osborne. Tom was the third of eight children. He graduated from high school from Central High School in Billings, Montana in 1974. At a

young age, he developed a love for adventure, sports, and the great outdoors. Tom received a basketball scholarship to Eastern Montana College (now Montana State University—Billings) and earned a bachelor’s degree in Physical Education, graduating in 1978.

Tom founded the Big Sky State Games, an Olympic-style sports festival in Montana, and served as the executive director from 1985 to 1993. In addition, he served as the executive director of the National Congress of State Games from 1993 to 2003 and assisted in the creation of the States Games of America. Tom also served as a member of the U.S. Olympic Committee Board of Directors from 1996 to 2000.

Tom met his wife, Amy (Tompson), during a fly-fishing class in Billings in 1995. Tom and Amy began dating, and he immediately started a careful pursuit for her heart and the hearts of her children, Ellie and Ben. After five years, they were married on November 3, 2001, in Midland, Texas, and became a family.

In 2003, Tom and his family began a new adventure, moving to Colorado Springs so that Tom could join Colorado Springs Sports Corporation as the president and CEO. It didn’t take long for Tom to find his footing in the Pikes Peak region. He quickly worked to bring various sporting events to Colorado Springs, including the Warrior Games, Pikes Peak Air-strip Attack, premier cycling events, youth sports programs, and much more, including the Labor Day Lift Off. In addition, Tom served as the Chairman of the Pikes Peak International Hill Climb for over a decade and was a member of the World Arena Board of Directors.

Tom and Amy were members of the Pauline Chapel at The Broadmoor, attending the interdenominational service. Much of Tom’s work coincided with non-profits across the community, helping people in all situations, including troubled youth and veterans, to find respite care and comfort in sports and the great outdoors. When asked about his relationship with the Lord, Tom would say, “Me and Jesus, (crossing his fingers) we’re good.”

Tom is described by his wife Amy, and his many co-workers, as the kindest, most supportive, humble, ambitious dreamer they have ever known. He had an extensive network of friends, staff, and community who often found themselves in awe of Tom’s ambition and vision. A few words that Tom scribbled inside of a book cover sum up his life perfectly, “Bars are meant to be raised,” and indeed, he raised them.

Tom is survived by his beloved wife of nearly 20 years, Amy; children: Ellie (Cameron) Kuehn and Ben (Kassy) Haughton; grandchildren: Charlie Rose and James Bridges; siblings: Doug (Jan) Osborne, Pat (Kathi) Osborne, Jeanne (Larry) Fritz, Mary (Michael) Andres, Cathy (Mark) Johnson, Jan (Doug) Grotiz, Will (Tina) Osborne; and many nieces, nephews, cousins, and in-laws.

Tom leaves a legacy in which no stone went unturned and no mission unconquered. Because of his ability to dream big, countless children and adults have a life-long passion for sports and athletics, many of whom made a career out of these passions. The lasting impact of his influence in the sports and outdoors community of the Pikes Peak region will endure and benefit many generations to come.

## RECOGNIZING LOU SPIOTTI

**HON. JOSEPH D. MORELLE**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 23, 2021*

Mr. MORELLE. Madam Speaker, rise today in recognition of Mr. Lou Spiotti as he retires from an outstanding career as the Athletic Director at the Rochester Institute of Technology, a career spanning four decades of unwavering commitment to his student-athletes both on and off the field.

Mr. Spiotti arrived at RIT in 1974 as head football coach, after six years he was chosen to lead the athletic program. Under his leadership, RIT athletics experienced unprecedented success and growth. From an original fifteen programs, Mr. Spiotti oversaw the expansion to twenty-four programs totaling well over 600 student-athletes and staff. During his forty-one-year tenure, RIT secured forty-one Division III conference championships—including ten consecutive league titles by the men's lacrosse program and women's basketball playing in three straight NCAA Tournaments. Mr. Spiotti's decades of service make him the longest-tenured intercollegiate athletic director in the nation—a remarkable accomplishment.

Academic success was always as important to Mr. Spiotti as athletic success. During his career, the athletic department's cumulative grade point average regularly exceeded that of the overall student body. Additionally, Mr. Spiotti spearheaded multiple athletic facility upgrades including the completion of the 4,300 seat Gene Polisseni Center. For his body of work as a leader, coach, and administrator Mr. Spiotti has earned the respect and admiration of the RIT community. He leaves behind a culture of integrity, character, and class.

Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask that you join me in extending congratulations on Mr. Spiotti's well-deserved retirement and in expressing our appreciation for his years of service to the RIT community.

TRIBUTE TO HONOR THE LIFE OF  
DELOS "DEE" ORAN CIRCLE

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 23, 2021*

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a great American and lifelong friend, Dee Circle.

Dee died peacefully at home in Rancho Mirage, California, on May 20, 2021. He was predeceased by his father, mother, sister, and grandson, Taylor. Dee leaves behind his loving wife, Candace, daughters Lori (Gil Solon), Jenny (Dermot Cronin), and Jamie, grandchildren Ryan, Tommy and Lily, and his brother Dick Circle.

Delos Oran Circle was born in Selah, Washington, on August 20, 1938, to Gracia Fern Lancaster and William Oran Circle. He had two older siblings, Dick and Sharon, and spent his childhood in Washington. After high school he joined the Coast Guard and moved to northern California. He was a Peninsula resident for over 50 years.

In 1974, Dee married Candace Lee Edmondson and their flower girl was my

daughter, Karen. They had two daughters, Jennifer Dee and Jamie Leigh. Dee was a successful real estate loan broker and developer in the San Francisco Bay area. He was an avid golfer and sports fan, cheering on his beloved Warriors, 49ers, and SF Giants, and never missed a minute of The Masters. Dee was Jenny's No. 1 fan as she played basketball through college.

In 2003, Dee and Candy retired to the desert and built a home at PGA West. Dee was a loving husband, father, grandfather, brother and friend. He was kind, generous and funny, and was always the biggest personality in the room surrounded by friends.

Madam Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in honoring the life of this good man. Dee Circle lived a purposeful life by being a loving family man, a loyal friend, a patriot and a man of integrity. He will be sorely missed by all those who had the good fortune to know him and he will always be remembered as a true blessing to each of us.

JUNETEENTH NATIONAL  
INDEPENDENCE DAY ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 16, 2021*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, as a senior member of the House Judiciary Committee, the Chair of the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security, and the principal sponsor in the House of the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act, I rise in strong and enthusiastic support of S. 475, the Senate companion to the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act for my bill H.R. 1320 introduced on February 25, 2021, which establishes June 19 as a federal holiday.

Research by the Library of Congress looking back to the beginning of the Congress's existence as a legislative body could find no bill that sought to make Juneteenth a federal holiday, prior to the bill I introduced on June 18, 2020.

I have introduced the Juneteenth resolution annually since 2013.

In 2020, the resolution received 214 sponsors in the House of Representatives.

This surge in support let me know that the nation was ready for a new holiday and therefore I introduced H.R. 7232, the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act which received 158 sponsors in the 116th Congress.

Senator Doug Jones and Senator EDWARD MARKEY contacted my office seeking to introduce a Senate companion.

Later ED MARKEY's staff reached out to collaborate on a Senate version of my Juneteenth Holiday bill and ultimately introduced the Senate version of the bill, which followed the text of H.R. 1320.

I applaud the U.S. Senate for passing S. 475/1320, Juneteenth National Independence Day Act, companion legislation to H.R. 1320, which I introduced to make Juneteenth a federal holiday to commemorate the end of chattel slavery, America's Original Sin, and to celebrate the perseverance that has been the hallmark of the African American struggle for equality.

I thank Senator MARKEY of Massachusetts for contacting my office with his request to introduce the Senate companion to H.R. 1320 for this Congress, and to my senior senator, Senator JOHN CORNYN of Texas for his steadfast support of the Juneteenth holiday over the years, and others who spearheaded this effort in the Senate, and Senate Majority Leader SCHUMER for his support and for using his legislative skills to ensure the bill was voted on and passed.

Madam Speaker, the process that has brought us to this day has been bipartisan, bicameral, cooperative, and constructive beginning with my collaboration in the 116th Congress with former Senator Doug Jones of Alabama and Senator CORNYN of Texas to coordinate the introduction and cultivate the necessary support for the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act.

That partnership has continued through the 117th Congress with the addition of Senator MARKEY of Massachusetts as the lead Democratic sponsor in the Senate.

The bipartisan H.R. 1320, the House version of S. 475/H.R. 1320, is sponsored by 166 Members from all regions of the country, including two of my Republican colleagues from Texas, Congressman VAN TAYLOR and Congressman RANDY WEBER.

Madam Speaker, now it is time for the House of Representatives to act swiftly and bring to the floor, vote on, pass the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act, and send it to the desk of President Biden for signature.

With the President's signature, the federal government will join 47 states in recognizing as a holiday Juneteenth, the day that has been celebrated by African Americans for 156 years and has been called rightly as 'America's second Independence Day.'

Let me extend on behalf of all of us who have labored to pass this important legislation our deep appreciation to the House leadership, particularly Majority Leader HOYER, for their support which paved the way for the House last year to pass by unanimous consent H. Res. 1001, the resolution I introduced recognizing Juneteenth Independence Day.

As I have said many times, Juneteenth is as significant to African Americans as July 4 is to all Americans because on that day, June 19, 155 years ago, General Gordon Granger, the Commanding Officer of the District of Texas, rode into Galveston, Texas and announced the freedom of the last American slaves; belatedly freeing 250,000 slaves in Texas nearly two and a half years after Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation.

When General Granger read these words of General Order No. 3 set off joyous celebrations of the freedmen and women of Texas:

"The people of Texas are informed that in accordance with a Proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection therefore existing between them becomes that between employer and hired laborer."

Juneteenth thus made real to the last persons living under the system of chattel slavery, of human bondage, the prophetic words of President Abraham Lincoln delivered November 19, 1863, at Gettysburg 'that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people,

by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.'

Juneteenth was first celebrated in the Texas state capital in 1867 under the direction of the Freedmen's Bureau and remains the oldest known celebration of slavery's demise, commemorating freedom while acknowledging the sacrifices and contributions made by courageous African Americans towards making our great nation the more conscious and accepting country that it has become.

As the nation prepares to celebrate July 4th, our Nation's independence day, it is a time to reflect on the accomplishments of our nation and its people.

The celebration of Juneteenth followed the most devastating conflict in our country's history, in the aftermath of a civil war that pitted brother against brother, neighbor against neighbor and threatened to tear the fabric of our union apart forever that America truly became the land of the free and the home of the brave.

Juneteenth honors the end of the 400 years of suffering African Americans endured under slavery and celebrates the perseverance that has been the hallmark of the African American experience in the struggle for equality.

But as the poet Langston Hughes reminds us in his famous poem, 'Mother to Son,' life in America for African Americans "ain't been no crystal stair."

The post-bellum period in America was marked by violence and terrorism against African Americans as they sought to make real the promises of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution.

General Granger's reading of General Order No. 3 ended the remaining vestiges of the system of chattel slavery, a form of perpetual human bondage that held generations of Africans in captivity in the United States for two-hundred and forty-eight years and opened a new chapter in American history.

Recognizing the importance of this date, former slaves coined the word "Juneteenth" to celebrate the occasion, the first of which occurred in the Texas state capital in 1867 under the direction of the Freedmen's Bureau.

Juneteenth was and is a living symbol of freedom for people who did not have it.

Juneteenth remains the oldest known celebration of America's freedom from slavery.

I commemorates freedom while acknowledging the sacrifices and contributions made by courageous African Americans in the quest to make our more perfect.

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The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, "Freedom is never free," and African American labor leader A. Phillip Randolph often said "Freedom is never given. It is won." Truer words were never spoken.

We should all recognize the power and the ironic truth of those statements, and we should pause to remember the enormous price paid by all Americans in our country's quest to realize its promise.

In recent years, a number of National Juneteenth Organizations have arisen to take their place alongside older organizations—all with the mission to promote and cultivate knowledge and appreciation of African American history and culture.

I am reminded that the first legislation introduced in Congress recognizing Juneteenth occurred a quarter century ago, in 1996, when H.J. Res. 195 was introduced by Congresswoman Barbara Rose Collins of Michigan and I have introduced similar legislation annually since the 109th Congress.

So it has been a long road we have travelled to get to this day, even longer that the 15-year journey taken to pass the bill making the Birthday of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. a national holiday.

Juneteenth celebrates African American freedom, and in so doing celebrates America's history and promise, while encouraging selfdevelopment and respect for all cultures.

But it must always remain a reminder to us all that liberty and freedom are precious birth-

rights of all Americans, which must be jealously guarded and preserved for future generations.

In conclusion, I wish to take a moment to salute two of the unsung heroes who helped bring us to this day: the late Texas State Representative Al Edwards and nonagenarian Opal Lee, known affectionately as the "Grandmother of Juneteenth."

In 1852, Frederick Douglass famously asked: "What to the slave is the 4th of July?"

In 2021, we can reply that it is the beginning of the American Promise that would be fulfilled and made real for all Americans, including the descendants of slaves, on June 19, 1865, 'Juneteenth Day.'

That is why we celebrate Juneteenth and that is why I urge all Members to join me in voting to pass H.R. 1320/S. 475, the "Juneteenth National Independence Day Act."

#### SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, June 24, 2021 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.